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UBD chapter 1

One aspect of this reading I found particularly interesting was the section on the whom, what, where, and how for teachers. An understanding of each of these elements is crucial to having an effective classroom. Having an understanding of the who (the students) gives you the opportunity to adjust a lesson for a number of students with different needs, going into a classroom without an understanding of who you are teaching the material to inhibits your ability to convey the material effectively. Understanding what your teaching should be go without explaining. Of course knowing what you are teaching is necessary to teach it, but the difference between having an adequate and a mastery understanding of your content can make a huge difference in the adaptability of your lesson plan. If you know your content beyond what you are required to know you can deviate from a lesson plan easily if you start to sense it doesn't resonate with your class, whereas just a baseline understanding doesn't allow for that kind of flexibility. Understanding where you are teaching is also crucial for teachers as the learning environment can make or break a student's experience in the classroom. If you do everything correctly but a student is exposed to a hostile classroom environment that could all be for nothing because they might not be able to focus in class or the student might not come to class altogether. Finally the how is crucial because the way in which you teach the material to the class and the strategies you use in the classroom are ultimately going to be the final barrier between you and the student and an effective use of strategies can make your classroom operate that much more effectively.